

Middlesex County Wetlands Board Minutes

May 8, 2001

**Call to Order**

The May 8, 2001 meeting of the Middlesex County Wetlands Board was called to order by Chairman Elliott Reed at 9:00 A.M. in the Boardroom of the Woodward Building, Saluda, Virginia.

Present: Mr. Elliott Reed - Chairman  
Mr. John Smither - Vice Chairman  
Mr. M. Dale Taylor  
Mr. Woodson Armstead

Absent: Mr. B. Ulman Miller

Staff present: Thomas Jordan, Planner  
Cathy Shiflett, Planning Secretary

Also present were Mr. Robert Neikirk from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) and David O'Brien from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS).

**Minutes**

The Board considered the minutes of the April 10, 2001 meeting. On a motion by Mr. Taylor, and a second by Mr. Armstead, the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Public Hearing**

Chairman Reed opened the public hearing, and the Middlesex County Wetlands Board took action on the following applications:

A. Hiram T. Pritchard, Jr. - Application #2001-0442.

Chairman Reed read the applicant's proposal to place 60' of marsh toe riprap revetment. This project is located on the Piankatank River, at Tax Map #44-8. Staff then read the VIMS report for the project.

There was no one in attendance to represent the project.

Chairman Reed opened the public hearing.  
With there being no comment from the public, the hearing was closed.

On a motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Smither, and carried by unanimous vote, Application #2001-0442 was approved. This approval is valid for a term of 18 months.

B. Archie Goodwin - Application #2001-0533.

Chairman Reed read the applicant's proposal to construct 116' of bulkhead (including two 8' return walls). This project is located on Meachim's Creek, at Tax Map #30A-1-29. Staff then read the VIMS report for the project.

Carol Collier, agent, was in attendance to represent the project. She explained the proposal and offered to answer any questions the Board may have. Ms. Collier stated the existing riprap had not been installed properly, and placed without filter cloth. She added that the existing riprap could be used as bulkhead toe protection. Ms. Collier added that the applicant prefers a wooden bulkhead, as opposed to the VIMS suggestion to extend existing riprap along the entire shoreline.

Mr. O'Brien expressed concern that the steep bank makes installation of a properly installed bulkhead problematic without extensive grading. Additionally, Mr. O'Brien stated that protecting the small vegetated sand spit was the greatest concern.

Mr. Taylor stated his concern regarding the wave energy hitting a vertical structure like the proposed bulkhead and adversely affecting the vegetated wetlands.

Mr. Smither stated that use of stone would offer protection and cause less impacts to the sand spit and grass, yet still allow the property owner to protect his property.

Ms. Collier stated that she would relate the Board's concerns to the property owner.

Chairman Reed requested staff to read the VIMS report again.

Chairman Reed opened the public hearing.

With there being no comment from the public, the hearing was closed.

On a motion by Mr. Smither, seconded by Mr. Armstead, and carried by unanimous vote, Application #2001-0533 was approved with the condition that the proposed bulkhead be changed to a riprap revetment, aligned along the toe of the bank and landward of the existing marsh vegetation with the submission of revised drawings showing the existing and approved riprap and vegetated sand spit. This approval is valid for a term of 18 months.

C. Donald Perry, Sr. - Application #2001-0534.

Chairman Reed read the applicant's proposal to place 128' of riprap revetment and replace the existing 48' groin. This project is located on the Rappahannock River, at Tax Map #41-14A-7. Staff then read the VIMS report for the project.

Ms. Carol Collier, agent, was in attendance to represent the project. She explained the proposal and offered to answer any questions the Board may have. Ms. Collier displayed a photograph of the site and commented on the siltation adjacent to the pier. Ms. Collier further stated the applicant wants the riprap as high as possible to prevent further shoreline erosion and the siltation around the pier, which affects the applicant boat access.

Mr. Taylor commented that he was familiar with the area, and agreed that the area can get rough during storm events. Mr. Taylor stated his opinion that the use of heavy stones would be acceptable.

Mr. O'Brien expressed his concern that a 4' marsh sill would isolate the marsh by not allowing proper tidal flushing. He suggested augmenting the existing riprap spur and tying the marsh sill into this structure, thereby protecting the southern shore.

Mr. Smither expressed his desire to see the proposed riprap revetment height on the adjacent property owner's project, also due for consideration by the Board at this meeting.

Mr. Taylor asked if the Board could consider both projects at the same time in order to help both property owners. Mr. Neikirk responded that the project could be continued and reconsidered after taking action on the adjacent property owner's application (#2001-0520 Perkins).

On a motion by Mr. Smither, seconded by Mr. Woodson, and carried by a unanimous vote, Application #2001-0534 was continued until after the hearing of Application #2001-0520.

D. Harold & Jean Harris - Application #2001-0602.

Chairman Reed read the applicant's proposal to place 220' of riprap revetment in front of an existing failing bulkhead. This project is located on the Piankatank River, at Tax Map #43A-6-9. Staff then read the VIMS report for the project.

Ms. Carol Collier, agent, was in attendance to represent the project. She explained the proposal and offered to answer any questions the Board may have.

Chairman Reed opened the public hearing.  
With there being no comment from the public, the hearing was closed.

On a motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Smither, and carried by a unanimous vote, Application #2001-0602 was approved. This approval is valid for a term of 18 months.

E. William Perkins - Application #2001-0520.

Chairman Reed read the applicant's proposal to place 190' of marsh toe riprap revetment, dredge channel (150 cu./yrds.), and beach nourishment (92 cu./yrds.). This project is located on Montgomery Cove, at Tax Map #41-66-4. Staff then read the VIMS report for the project.

Alor Grantham-Traywick, agent, was in attendance to represent the project. She explained the proposal and offered to answer any questions the Board may have. Ms. Traywick stated that she had worked with the site over the past fifteen years, since the Corps of Engineers had originally determined the site was in violation. Ms. Traywick expressed her disagreement with the VIMS report that found no evidence of erosion on the southern shoreline of the property. Additionally, Ms. Traywick stated that the Corps of Engineers had recommended that the dredged channel be as narrow as possible, with 10 ft. being proposed, and that the sand would be hauled away.

Mr. O'Brien displayed photographs taken in 1988, indicating that the southern shoreline had remained stable, and should not be disturbed, although the north side's eroding scrap should be protected from erosion. Mr. O'Brien further stated that he could not recommend the installation of a marsh sill on the southern shoreline due to the stable shoreline.

Ms. Traywick stated that she disagreed.

Mr. Taylor offered his opinion that he agreed with dredging the channel, but that all the dredged sand should be hauled away, not used as fill. Mr. Smither agreed, and commented that he concurred with the VIMS recommendations.

Mr. O'Brien stated his opinion that no rock should be used on the entire site in response to Ms. Traywick's proposal to use rock on portions of the property.

Ms. Traywick requested a continuance of the public hearing to allow her an opportunity to discuss options with the applicants.

On a motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Smither, and carried by a unanimous vote, Application #2001-0520 continued until the next regularly scheduled meeting on June 12, 2001.

F. Mill Creek Harbor Association, Inc. - Application #2001-0623.

Chairman Reed read the applicant's proposal to place 155' of riprap revetment. This project is located on the Piankatank River, at Tax Map #41-64-A. Staff then read the VIMS report for the project.

Mr. Chris Pickin, representative for D&D Marine Construction, was in attendance to represent the project. He explained the proposal is a continuation of a project begun approximately six years ago. Mr. Pickin explained that small stones would be placed over filter cloth to prevent puncture, with larger, heavier stone placed on top, providing erosion protection.

Chairman Reed opened the public hearing.  
With there being no comment from the public, the hearing was closed.

On a motion by Mr. Woodson, seconded by Mr. Smither, and carried by a unanimous vote, Application #2001-0623 was approved as submitted. This approval is valid for a term of 18 months.

C. Donald Perry, Sr. - Application #2001-0534 (continued).

Chairman Reed expressed his opinion that no new information had been gained by continuing the project.

Mr. O'Brien inquired regarding the placement of stone around the dock, not beneath the dock. Ms. Collier commented that during northeast storms, sea spray hits the top of the house, thus, the desire for riprap revetment, rather than a marsh toe sill.

Mr. Neikirk commented that there seemed to be two alternatives; one being the use of riprap revetment behind the marsh and backfill behind, or, the construction of a marsh toe sill 4' high.

Chairman Reed opened the public hearing.  
With there being no comment from the public, the hearing was closed.

On a motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Smither, and carried by unanimous vote, Application #2001-0534 was approved for 4' high riprap revetment, backfilled, and follow the contour of the existing bank. This approval is valid for a term of 18 months.

### **New Business**

A. Identification Tags

Mr. Jordan informed the Board that during a recent wetlands project site visit, Mr. Smither had been questioned by a property owner concerning his identification. The Board discussed the need for Identification Tags and decided to wait and see if the issue is raised again in the future.

B. Chairman Elliot Reed – Resignation

Chairman Reed informed the Board that upon accepting an appointment to the Middlesex County School Board, this would be his last meeting as Chairman and member of the Wetlands Board. He expressed his gratitude for the cooperation of all the Board members during his years of service and offered his assistance to the Board in the future.

The Board members congratulated Mr. Reed on his appointment and wished him well in his future endeavors.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss Mr. Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Smither, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted.

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Wetlands Board Chair

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Date